

SOCIAL ACTION NEWS-LETTER

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Protestant Refugees Arrive

Church World Service, the new unified organization which has taken over the relief work of cooperative Protestantism, notice of the formation of which will be found elsewhere in this issue, has announced the arrival of the first group of Displaced Persons from Europe on May 20. The contingent numbers 600 persons, of whom 100 are listed as Protestants.

The action of immigration authorities in bringing Displaced Persons to the United States is in compliance with a directive of President Truman dated December 22, 1945, ordering the establishment of facilities and procedures for the resumption of immigration from Europe, with particular attention to be given to Displaced Persons. Under the terms of the directive consular offices have been established near European camps for the purpose of screening and facilitating the immigration of such Displaced Persons as receive official approval and who can be guaranteed support against becoming public charges in the United States. Church World Service is supporting financially the American Christian Committee for Refugees as one of several national social agencies which have been approved by the government to sign Corporate Affidavits of Support to enable Displaced Persons to enter the country under the President's directive and under existing quotas. Such corporate guarantees make it possible to include many Displaced Persons without personal ties in the United States, yet who are eminently worthy of rescue and rehabilitation. A preliminary announcement stated that among the first Protestant group to arrive would be approximately 30 Latvians, 19 Yugoslavs, 16 White Russians, 6 Estonians, 3 Lithuanians, 3 children born in Germany, 2 Poles, and 1 Czech. Church World Service will undertake to care for Protestants, Eastern Orthodox and other individuals not looked after by Catholic, Jewish or child welfare agencies.

The contingent consists predominantly of people in the younger or middle-age group. A few older people belong to family units. The Yugoslav group consists mainly of single young men, farmers and artisans. There are some intellectuals and students among the Latvians and Russians. In view of the younger age of the whole group the general employability is thought to be high, but the fact that they have been in camps for several years will have to be taken into consideration in evaluating their ability to adjust to normal life conditions.

Church World Service will seek to relocate Protestants in Protestant communities throughout the United States. Clearance will be required on both the national and local level. The American Christian Committee for Refugees, supported by Church World Service funds, will receive the individuals when they land, render relief where needed, make referrals for resettlement on the basis of individual situations and services available, and will keep in touch with local family agencies on individual situations so long as this service may be needed. ACCR will make a report to the government every six months on the whereabouts and means of support of each immigrant entered on its Corporate Affidavit. Church World Service will need the assistance of local churches in securing opportunities for relocation of these persons and will become responsible for such relief expenditures as may be necessary to prevent them from becoming public charges, though it is hoped that many local congregations will undertake to aid in the rehabilitation of these persons. At the present time the chief need is for locations to which such persons can be sent to begin their new life in America.

Scientists Again Warn Nation

With the persistence of an Amos or an Isaiah the atom scientists, both individually and collectively, continue to warn the nation that atomic energy is a new and dangerous force that must be put under international control and developed for the benefit of all mankind or it may result in incalculable disaster for the human race. In particular do they protest the continued control over the processes of manufacture of atomic energy by the military, who seem determined to experiment with it for war-making purposes before allowing it to be used for anything else.

The latest in a series of such protests came on May 16, from the Federation of American Scientists, meeting in Washington. Declaring that "ten months are gone" since the first experimental bomb was exploded at Alamogorda and that "time is running out," the scientists warn that "the bomb won't wait ten years" for a reluctant Congress to make up its mind.

In the statement released on May 16, the scientists say, "Today more than ever the scientists feel the duty to warn their fellow-citizens that we are not moving nearly fast enough . . . No atomic energy commission has been set up within the United States. The powers which could mean so much to all men remain under the lock and key of the military. No atomic energy legislation has yet been discussed in full debate on the floor of the senate." No detailed proposal for world control of these awesome forces has yet been made by the government of the United States . . . The United Nations atomic energy commission is about to meet—belatedly—but the peacetime benefits of atomic energy—even the world's first atomic power project getting under way at Oak Ridge, Tennessee—are still shrouded in secrecy.

"Ten months have passed and the bomb ticks away while mankind stumbles blindly toward the time when all industrial nations will have bombs enough that any one of them might destroy in one raid the centers of civilization. Once again we warn the American people that time is running out, that this problem must be solved, that it must be solved in a few years."

Dr. Robert Maynard Hutchins, Chancellor of the University of Chicago, in a pamphlet entitled, "The Atomic Bomb versus Civilization," published by *Human Events, Inc.*, said,

"We Americans cannot delude ourselves by thinking that we have any scientific or mechanical secrets that can protect us. Such secrets as we possess are radio-active, with very short half-lives. If there was a secret, it was abolished when the first bomb was dropped. The War Department, by releasing the Smyth Report for publication has given away all we knew up to 1942, and has shown other nations the path which they must follow to reach the point at which we had arrived in 1945. The secrets remaining will affect the work that is done from now on, but will not prevent other nations from building bombs as good as those we now have; and those are quite good enough to destroy the cities of the United States."

On September 18, 1945, just a little more than a month after the first atomic bombs were dropped on Japan, the executive committee of the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America, issued a statement in which the following words occur:

"Every possible safeguard to protect man from the consequences of his own pride and greed is the urgent business of the churches. The danger of atomic war is too great and imminent to permit neglect of any means calculated to lessen or delay it. Therefore we need to study and support all feasible social controls of all destructive atomic power. No such con-


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Hunter To Lynchburg College

On May 20 President Robert M. Hopkins announced the resignation of J. B. Hunter as national director of peace and interracial understanding of The United Christian Missionary Society. Mr. Hunter has accepted a call to become professor of Bible at Lynchburg College, Virginia.

Mr. Hunter came to the Society in September 1944 as a national director in the department of Social Welfare, following a period of service with the War Relocation Authority as assistant director of the Relocation Center at McGehee, Arkansas. A Texan by birth, he received his undergraduate training at Transylvania College, later receiving an M. A. in sociology from Vanderbilt University and the B. D. degree from Yale Divinity School. During World War I he served as a chaplain in the armed forces and saw front line service in France. Following the war he went to Japan as a missionary under The United Christian Missionary Society. When the depression compelled reduction of the missionary forces Mr. Hunter accepted the pastorate of the Pulaski Heights Christian Church, Little Rock, Arkansas. In 1939 when Japan's international relations became strained Japanese Christian leaders asked the Society to return Mr. Hunter to Japan to serve as a counsellor to pastors. Due to passport difficulties his return was delayed and soon after arrival in Japan he became convinced that not only could he not render the service planned but that his presence among the Japanese Christians was misunderstood by Japanese authorities. He therefore withdrew to China and shortly thereafter returned to America.

When Americans of Japanese descent and Japanese nationals residing on the Pacific Coast were removed to assembly centers under military orders, Mr. Hunter rendered loyal and efficient service as the Society's representative in that area. He accepted a position with the War Relocation, from whence he returned to the work of the Society in September 1944.

As a national director in the field of world peace and interracial understanding with major responsibility for the work of the Commission on World Order, Mr. Hunter has been in great demand by local church groups, conventions, conferences, retreats, and by college groups. He has served acceptably on various interdenominational committees and conferences. He has also written extensively in the field of world peace and race relations for various religious publications.

In returning to the classroom Mr. Hunter will find himself on familiar ground. During his years of missionary service he taught in Drake Bible College in Tokyo and during his Little Rock pastorate he taught Bible at Little Rock Junior College and gave courses on international relations in the extension department of the University of Arkansas.

Mrs. Hunter, who shared his missionary service in Japan, served for a time recently as ad interim national World Call secretary. A son, Jack, is a student at Harvard University and a daughter, Betty, is a student at Texas State Women's College, Denton, Texas.

Protest Dulles Life Magazine Articles

On June 13, James A. Crain, executive secretary of the department of Social Welfare of The United Christian Missionary Society addressed the following letter to Dr. Walter W. Van Kirk, secretary of the Commission on a Just and Durable Peace of the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America, relative to two articles by Mr. John Foster Dulles, chairman of the Commission which appeared in *Life* magazine:

"My Dear Dr. Van Kirk:

"I am writing to express to you the deep concern which some of us feel of the two recent articles of Mr. John Foster Dulles appearing in the June 3 and June 10 issues of *Life* magazine. I have a profound respect for Mr. Dulles' integrity, intellectual ability and the long, intimate, and varied experience he has had in the field of international relationships. I know that the expression of his convictions in this way must have been the result of long and serious study.

"Nevertheless, I think it is extremely unfortunate that the man who has become the symbol of Protestant thinking about World Order and whose leadership has meant so much to the rank and file of the churches should have felt impelled to express views which are so widely at variance with the spirit, if not the actual text, of the statements that have been issued by the Commission which he has lead and the documents that have come out of the Delaware Conference and other gatherings sponsored by the Commission.

"There are two points at which Mr. Dulles' articles give me cause for serious concern. The first is the general attitude which underlies both articles which indicates suspicion and distrust of the intentions of Russia. It is, I think, a bit more than that. It seems to advocate meeting Russia's aggressive attitude with an American policy of equal resistance and stubbornness. His thesis that such a policy on our part will cause Soviet leaders to hesitate and retreat is not, it seems to me, borne out by history. It can end only in widening the chasm between the United States and Russia, and setting the two countries off as potential enemies and raising the standards around which nations and people can flock in an alignment for a third World War. I have no desire for a policy of appeasement. But neither do I advocate a policy which, it seems to me, would solidify the world into two opposing camps, with the United States taking the leadership in a program of power politics which Great Britain has heretofore held. It seems me there ought to be a middle ground—one in which responsible statesmen of all countries might continue to seek for solutions of our difficulties rather than choosing up sides for a war, which if it comes, will be frightful beyond description.

"My second concern is that Mr. Dulles comes out for a strong American military force. This is the natural and inevitable conclusion from the premises he has taken. He opens the door for permanent peace-time conscription, for retaining unilateral control of the atomic bomb (so far as that is possible), a huge air fleet and as large a navy as we can find to be strategically profitable, and for continued subservience of science to the military establishment. Mr. Dulles can argue, of course, that these do not necessarily follow, but certainly if we agree that the United States must remain a strong military power there can be few objections to this course of action.

"The first of Mr. Dulles' article was discussed at the June 4, meeting of our Commission on World Order. The second article had not at that time appeared. Some concern was evinced over the first article and at a meeting of the Disciples Peace Fellowship on June 6 and 7, we were given a summary of the second article, which has since appeared in *Life*. There was even more anxiety evident in this group. Both the Commission on World Order and the Department of Social Welfare have worked very closely with the Commission on a Just and Durable Peace because we have valued highly the type of leadership we feel it has given the Protestant forces of the country. We greatly hope that both this leadership and our close cooperation with it can continue."

Sincerely,

James A. Crain
Secretary"

On Social Frontiers

As of May 23, 1946, 5,102 conscientious objectors had been discharged from Civilian Public Service, according to the National Service Board for Religious Objectors. On May 1, 1946, 4,136 C.O.s were still in CPS, of whom 2,156 were in camps operated by the Mennonite Central Committee, 946 in camps of the Brethren Service Committee, and 1,036 in regular and special government camps and other units (including detached service).

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The annual YWCA convention at Atlantic City in March voted complete integration of Negro women and girls into the activities of the Association. The program presented to the 3,000 delegates from all over the United States called for the abolition of segregation and for the inclusion of Negroes into the "main stream of Association life." Under the new action the YWCA will cease to plan separately for racial groups, salary differentials between white and Negro workers will be eliminated and Associations having Negro constituents will place Negro members on all boards and committees. Present and prospective volunteers will be asked to serve only after the interracial nature of the YWCA has been explained to them.

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There was a steady decline in the percentage of contributions to religious causes as compared to total consumer outlay from 1932 to 1942, according to a recent report issued by the Bureau of Internal Revenue, entitled, Statistics of Income for 1942, Part I. This decline holds true not only for percentages, but also for actual cash contributions according to the report. In 1929, with a total consumer income of \$78,949,300,000, contributions to religion amounted to \$934,700,000 (1.2%) and in 1930, when total consumer income had fallen to \$71,533,900,000 giving was reduced only to \$874,900,000 (1.2%). In 1934, when total consumer income had dropped to the low point of \$46,716,500,000 religious giving dropped only one-tenth of one percent. However, with the upturn in consumer income in 1935 religious giving began a slow but steady decline. In 1942, when with a total consumer income of \$89,217,500,000 religious giving amounted to only \$720,800,000, or eight-tenths of one percent. These figures include all income tax deductions claimed for religious giving in the years indicated.

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According to OPA consumer prices during World War I (from July 1914 to June 1920) increased 108 percent. During 76 months of World War II (August 1939 to December 1945) consumer prices advanced only 31.7 percent. In World War I, without price control, prices went up 88 percent between 1915 and 1918, while production increased only 24 percent. In World War II, from 1939 to 1944, production was up 116 percent, while prices increased only 21 percent. The present drive against price control can be understood in the light of OPA's report that industrial profits increased in 1944 an average of 450 percent over pre-war profits. Department stores averaged the following percentages over 1939 levels: small stores, 1120 percent; medium stores, 617 percent; large stores, 362 percent.

* * * *

Just how well American business fared during the war is illustrated by figures released by the OPA in a summary of its report to the House Banking and Currency Committee on February 18, 1946. In 1940 corporations had a gross profit of 12.1 billions, and paid 7.3 billions in taxes, leaving a net profit of 4.8 billions. In 1941 gross corporate profits were 21.7 billions, out of which was paid 14.4 billions in taxes. In 1942 gross profits jumped to 27.7 billions, with taxes at 14.4 billions, leaving net income after taxes at 8.3 billions. By 1943 gross profits had increased to 34.1 billions, taxes taking 24.2 billions, and leaving net profits of 9.9 billions. In 1944 gross profits amounted to 34.8 billions, taxes to 24.8 billions and net profits after taxes to 10 billions. Of this huge sum of 90.1 billions paid to the government in taxes a very large amount was in excess profits taxes, some of which can be recaptured if the corporations can show losses during the first three post-war years.

Churchmen Challenge The President

That American church leaders are not indifferent to the trend of international events is reflected in the following letters addressed to President Truman recently.

"My Dear President:

As Christian ministers visiting Washington we take this opportunity to convey to you our concern, shared by many people who, like us, view with fear and trembling the present course of international events. We hail your reassurance that these events do not destroy our hope of peace, and pray that this reassurance will not stop with words.

At Potsdam you assumed leadership of America's destiny for peace. Your success in regaining your leadership spells life or death for civilization. As a first step in regaining your leadership we urge that you stand firmly for civilian control of atomic energy. Army control, as Secretary Wallace has warned us, opens the door to military fascism and chaos; and it only could be interpreted as a threat against other nations.

The warning of our young scientists, that unilateral control of atomic bombs cannot, by its very nature, serve peace in the One-World context of our time is confirmed by our Christian faith, and by man's experience that those who trust only in the sword shall perish by the sword. Indeed, unilateral or bilateral possession of such power, which because it is scientific is international and may not possibly be kept by some from others, only leads to mutual distrust and tension in a world that depends entirely upon mutual policy and interdependence.

We do not condone unilateral action anywhere, but concentrations of Russian troops in Iran or Manchuria cannot honestly, or realistically, be understood apart from similar concentrations of British and American troops in Greece, India, Syria, Lebanon, Iceland, China, and elsewhere. In this crucial position of international forces we cannot demand multilateral pacts in Eastern Europe and still pursue unilateral policies in the Americas and the Pacific. Does not international justice suggest that decisive harbors and canals should be primarily under the control of those great powers to whom such seaways are immediate and vital, with other nations participating according to their proportionate interest? Can we properly object to Russia's demand for a special position in the control of the seaways of the Dardanelles which is essential to her life and trade so long as we ourselves insist on exclusive control of the Panama Canal by the United States?

The churches have seen nations rise and fall because they would not accept the truth that mere trust in military power is not the road to peace. There is only a limited time in which to act decisively. It is no mere slogan to say that we live in One World or No World! Irresponsible influences like Mr. Churchill's would destroy us and the United Nations Organization. Only through your continued strong support of the United Nations Organization can One World be achieved and peace be won. It is later than we think. Religious insight on a deeper level than past political methods, is essential to the Atomic Age."

This forthright and challenging statement was signed by Joseph F. Fletcher, of the Episcopal Theological School, Cambridge, Mass., Stephen H. Fritchman, editor of *The Christian Register*, Boston, Mass., A. Mallegen, of the Virginia Theological Seminary, Alexandria, Virginia, Liston Pope, national chairman of Religious Associates, National Citizens Political Action Committee and Professor in Yale Divinity School, James Luther Adams, professor of theology, Federated Theological Faculties, University of Chicago, Jack R. McMichael, Methodist Federation for Social Service, New York City, Walter G. Muelder, dean and professor of Social Ethics, Boston University School of Theology, and G. Richard Kuch, associate director, American Unitarian Youth.

Social Action News-Letter recommends that this letter be studied by church groups throughout the nation and that letters written to the President expressing individual and group reactions to it.

Appeal To Peoples For World Government

The Rollins College Conference on World Government held in March issued "An Appeal to the Peoples of the World" urging that a general conference of the United Nations be called to transform that organization from a league of sovereign states into "a government deriving its specific powers from the peoples of the world." Among the 31 signers were Senators Claude Pepper, Joseph H. Ball, Carl A. Hatch, Charles W. Tobey, and Representatives Charles M. LaFollette and Jerry Voorhis.

The "Appeal" is as follows:

"We propose that a General Conference of the United Nations be called as provided in Article 109 of the Charter to draft amendments accomplishing the following objectives:

"That the United Nations be transformed from a league of sovereign states into a government deriving its specific powers from the peoples of the world.

"That the General Assembly be reconstituted as the legislative branch of the world government, in which the citizens of the member states are represented on an equitable basis.

"That the General Assembly, in addition to its present functions, shall have power

- a. To make laws prohibiting or otherwise controlling weapons of mass destruction and, so far as necessary for that purpose, regulating the uses of atomic energy.
- b. To make laws providing for such inspection as is necessary or appropriate to the execution of the foregoing powers.
- c. To provide for appropriate civil and criminal sanctions for the laws enacted pursuant to the foregoing powers.
- d. To provide and maintain such police forces as are necessary for law enforcement

"That a Bill of Rights be designed for the protection of persons affected by the laws enacted by the General Assembly."

Church World Service Launched

On May 7, 1946, Church World Service Inc., a unified Protestant relief agency came into being in New York City to coordinate the activities formerly carried on by the Church Committee on Overseas Relief and Reconstruction, the Church Committee on Relief in Asia, and the Commission for World Service of the American Committee of the World Council of Churches. Headquarters have been established at 37 East 36th Street, New York 16, N. Y. The constituting bodies are the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America, the Foreign Missions Conference of North America and the American Committee of the World Council of Churches. The action of unification was taken in compliance with a recommendation adopted by the special meeting of the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America at a special meeting held in Columbus, Ohio, March 5-7, 1946, in harmony with a report previously submitted by a special committee of eleven persons representing all interested agencies. The three constituting bodies will each have five representatives on the advisory committee. Dr. E. K. Higdon will represent the Disciples of Christ. The United Council of Church Women have also been invited to participate. The eight Church Service Centers formerly under the guidance of CCORR will come under the direction of Church World Service.

Dr. Leslie B. Moss, director of the Church Committee on Overseas Relief and Reconstruction, has announced that during the month of March an average of 150 tons of relief and concentrated foods were shipped each week. One shipment of 40 tons of flour went to relieve the critical situation in Poland. During the first quarter of 1946, nearly 4,000,000 pounds of bedding, clothing, shoes, concentrated foods, medical supplies and other relief supplies valued at about \$2,000,000 were shipped to relief areas. The over-all distribution in Europe is being carried out by the World Council of Churches and in Asia by the Church Committee for Relief in Asia. In addition to material aid American Protestant churches are currently raising \$125,000,000 in cash for relief and reconstruction overseas. A four-year plan has been tentatively set up, involving bulk purchase of foods and revitalizing the religious life and activity.

Brethren Launch New Project

On May 7, 1946, the Brethren Service Committee launched a new experiment in European relief which, if it proves successful, is expected to produce important results. On that date a converted army bomber took off with 155 cases of eggs (4,650 dozen) for Warsaw, Poland where UNRRA incubators were awaiting their arrival. The eggs, from the finest blood-tested White Leghorns and Rhode Island Reds, were contributed by Church of the Brethren farmers of southern and northeastern Ohio and northern Indiana. It is expected that these eggs when hatched will produce 125,000 pounds of poultry which will be distributed to needy families in the Warsaw area.

Accompanying the shipment was Ray Petersime, incubator manufacturer of Gettysburg, Ohio, who originated the project three months ago and who went along to supervise the distribution of the eggs. He intends to investigate agricultural conditions in Poland and to make a report to UNRRA. Petersime considers this first shipment a "test venture," adding that it may prove more profitable to ship baby chicks. The plane was provided by UNRRA and was piloted by a veteran of the AAF. UNRRA also arranged with the Russian military forces for the landing at Warsaw and for distribution of the eggs. Also underway is a program for supplying heifers and mares to Europe to rebuild its depleted livestock resources.

Scientists Again Warn Nation [Cont. from p. 1]

trols by themselves can save mankind. But without the most adequate controls men can devise, atomic war would become overwhelming."

On November 15, 1945, *Life* magazine published an illustrated version of "The 36-Hour War," based on statements of General Henry H. Arnold, commander of the Army Air Forces, in which the General is quoted as saying, "With present equipment an enemy air power can, without warning, pass over all formerly visualized barriers and can deliver devastating blows at our population centers and our industrial, economic or governmental heart even before surface forces can be deployed." Discussing the development of radar in detection of atomic bombs, *Life* said, "If such a radar were in use, it would give the U. S. about 30 minutes to get ready for the attack shown on these pages." General MacArthur has joined other military leaders in warning the world that the capacity to make war has passed beyond the control of the war-makers and that human relations must be solved by theological means; that men must save the spirit if they are to save the flesh.

Perhaps the most dramatic statement was made by Dr. Robert J. Oppenheimer, one of the atomic scientists, on an American Forum of the Air program debating peace time conscription, when he warned his hearers that there would be no World War III, that in event of the outbreak of hostilities the belligerents will destroy all of each other's centers of industry, government and national defense within the first 24 hours, adding, "no, within the first hour!"

To add to this dangerous situation, we are now told that American scientists have perfected means to utilize the cosmic ray, said to be a thousand times more deadly than the atomic bomb. Radioactive gases capable of destroying life over a wide area are also being developed. A responsible member of Congress has let slip the hint that American scientists are now developing bacteriological weapons which will exceed in deadliness atomic energy.

No civilization ever goes to its doom without warning from its prophets. Rome's approaching doom was written in the gradual encroachment of barbaric tribes on her northern and eastern outposts. France might have seen the approaching Revolution in the discontent of the masses and the bread riots of Paris and Versailles. Russia had ample warning of the doom of the Romanoff regime, had there been sufficient character and intelligence among them to read the signs. Now it is the scientists who are warning mankind to mend its ways before judgment falls. Does our generation have enough wisdom and character to heed?